

# Request for Remote Public Input for Senate Appropriations/Base Budget Committee on COVID-19 Public Comments Report - LINC

Date Submitted	Name	Comments
04/28/2020 05:54 PM	Mrs. Paula Dinga	<p>Dear NCGA friends,</p> <p>PLEASE VOTE NO!!!</p> <p>Every time I think things couldn't get worse...</p> <p>We are very concerned, once again, that there is another effort, potentially "bipartisan", that has elements within that will surely put more hardships on the shoulders of our public schools. It is unconscionable that more unrealistic expectations be hoisted upon our teachers, and indirectly our students, as the NCGA rushes to create ill-considered legislation. One might argue that these unrealistic expectations are an effort to fulfill the false argument that our public schools are failing, therefore increasing the misleading "data" supporting privatization. All this is being done in the cruel backdrop that our public schools have been severely underfunded and the NCGA has still not passed a budget for this fiscal cycle.</p> <p>I trust that you will be very cautious when reading these bills, rushed to satisfy the illusion that they will actually improve the system and its students' educations. We have seen this rush before, and its unintended (and intended) consequences. We cannot afford further damage. Our students and education professionals deserve so much more.</p> <p>Thank you for your continued service to our great state, and to the local communities you call home.</p>
04/28/2020 06:27 PM	Mrs. Melissa Hill	<p>I am very concerned about the pressure being placed on school districts to show the same amount of growth during remote learning as during in-class learning. Teachers and administrators can only control so much in a remote learning situation. Many children are not participating when virtual learning is offered, for many reasons — lack of parent supervision or support, lack of motivation, students providing child care for younger siblings, etc. Also, in many districts students are not even able to access the internet and are completing paper packets. Parents are not trained to deliver the same teaching that licensed, trained teachers provide.</p> <p>All of these factors are beyond teachers' and administrators' control. It's like blaming a dentist for the cavities in a patient that hasn't been in for a cleaning in months. Holding public schools accountable for the learning that goes on in a child's home, away from the teacher, just doesn't make sense. Please use better judgment and realize that as long as children are away from the classroom environment, some flexibility is needed. Districts simply cannot control what happens in the homes of students, no matter how hard they try.</p>
04/28/2020 07:16 PM	Principal Stephanie MANCINI	<p>I am incredibly concerned about the lack of equity for our students in WNC. What is the plan for the fall. We need additional funds for K-2 and 3-5 but I am most concerned for our K-2 students falling through the cracks.</p>

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04/28/2020 07:19 PM	Cindy Koerber	<p>We won't. We can't. It is impossible to state how out of touch this bill is with reality. Without students in our face-to-face classrooms there is far too much that is out of our control to "guarantee" any level of growth. If the present circumstances aren't enough to make someone understand that schools are a crucial part of our society then there is a willful blindness that is to blame. That is not to say that teachers and schools have absolute control over learning outcomes when students are in our classrooms--but it should be obvious to all that without them there we have very limited powers. Hopefully this bill will never even make it to prime time. Its author(s) should not make it past the next election.</p>
04/28/2020 07:33 PM	Ramona Warren	<p>I do not see an issue with moving forward with the class size reduction for the 2020/2021 school year.</p> <p>Having a blanket waiver for teachers in lateral entry status is not just. If a teacher knowingly did not enroll in required courses allowing an extension is unfair. If the assessment for licensure is all that is required the waiver is understandable. If the teacher was enrolled in required course work the teacher would have been able to continue with classes and meet the lateral deadline.</p> <p>The school calendar flexibility is absolutely necessary. Time on remote learning should count to accommodate hour learning requirement. School systems should also be able to start the next school year if not the next two school years early,</p>
04/28/2020 08:04 PM	Principal Andy Mehall	<p>Concerns about calendar flexibility for year-round schools. Also, concerns about testing 4th grade students within the first ten days. Finally, concerns about principal bonus pay and the impact on 2020-2021 school year.</p>
04/28/2020 08:11 PM	Ms. Ashley Melton	<p>Please do not expand the calendar into mid-August due to many families trying to reschedule some resemblance of an actual vacation in August. Also, allow LEA's to utilize additional funding to provide intensive instruction once the school year begins as they see fit. This can be via classroom teachers to lower class size and/or interventionists, depending on the needs of the district and individual schools. Finally, I cordially request pushing the testing of fourth graders to the first week of October. Relationships need to be built in each classroom and across every school during the first 10 days of school and standardized testing is not conducive to that. Building the climate and culture through student-teacher relationships and student peer relationships will be even more vital now than before. Thank you for your consideration and efforts to improve education in NC.</p>
04/28/2020 09:15 PM	NC Digital Kids Library Lisa Martin	<p>On behalf of the NC Public Library Directors Association (NCPLDA) members, thank you for your leadership in dealing with the CoViD-19 crisis. To that end, I offer information about a resource that for K-12 students across the state who are at home through the end of the year and through the summer.</p> <p>In 2017, the NCPLDA launched the NC Kids Digital Library, which provides access to children's e-books, e-audio books and video primarily for children in K-4th grades. Working with Overdrive, NCPLDA was able to secure permission for the first digital library in the United States available to children statewide. This was made possible through funding provided by the General Assembly. Non-recurring support provided in FY18 and FY19 enabled NCPLDA to build and maintain the collection. The FY2020 budget included a</p>

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		<p>\$200,000 recurring appropriation for NC Kids Digital Library, as well as an increase to State Aid for Public Libraries. Unfortunately, because the budget was not passed, NC Kids Digital Library went unfunded and overall library funding remained flat. NCPLDA has sustained the NC Kids Digital Library permanent collection of one copy-one user titles, but a number of simultaneous-unlimited access contracts that ensure every child has access have expired. NCPLDA has also been unable to provide access to new content offered by publishers due to limited funds.</p> <p>Due to the Coronavirus school closure, public libraries have received requests from school systems asking about access to NC Kids Digital Library and requesting that NCPLDA not only add additional fiction titles, but also include non-fiction to help support at home schooling.</p> <p>With the closure of schools for the rest of the school year, NCPLDA wants to make sure that children have access to content that they need. The NC Kids Digital Library is already positioned to help meet reading needs across the state if additional funding can be secured. Many county libraries have provided the digital access through school partnerships using student ID numbers. For school systems that did not already have partnerships in place, local libraries are offering temporary digital access cards for students to use.</p> <p>NCPLDA expects to see public library/school partnerships grow next year, especially if access to needed content is secured. Digital content is not cheap. Securing access to a digital library with a vast collection of materials can be challenging for individual school systems. NCPLDA has received permission from publishers to provide statewide access; thus, the simultaneous use purchases made can save thousands of dollars for individual schools, counties and the state.</p> <p>While the ratified budget contains an appropriation of \$200,000 recurring for the NC Kids Digital Library, an increase to \$400,000 would allow NCPLDA to renew expired contracts, meet holds requests and metered usage demands AND expand the collection to include additional simultaneous use and single use non-fiction resources that are being requested by school districts.</p> <p>NCPLDA is preparing carts so when funding is received, orders can be expedited and NCPLDA can have the additional materials ready within 24-48 hours. Steve Potash, CEO/ President of Overdrive (digital content provider for libraries and schools) is also working to secure temporary extensions on a few key simultaneous access contracts, which is extremely helpful for now. NCPLDA is working diligently to ensure that North Carolina school children do not experience the biggest "summer reading slide" ever; however, funding is critical!</p> <p>Thank you for considering this request. Now, more than ever, schools and libraries can work together to better leverage resources and expands the impact of state funds.</p> <p>Lisa Martin lisa@cap-ad.com</p>

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04/28/2020 09:38 PM	Mrs. Kelley James	Re: Reading legislation--1. Read to Achieve has been a waste of taxpayer money. If the amount invested in RtA had been directed towards early childhood literacy, perhaps RtA wouldn't have been created. The diagnostic assessments at the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year will only be valuable if teachers are allowed to use that data to determine instructional gaps, intervention plans, and instructional direction. K-3 teachers need the return of mClass to be able to truly identify reading gaps. Its assessment of each building block of reading allows teachers to pinpoint deficits and build instruction to close those gaps. iStation simply does not provide that information at such young ages. mClass allows interaction and teacher observation for each individual student. mClass is not a video game. I hope you will consider reinstating mClass so that teachers across the state can get an accurate picture of reading readiness and abilities of young children.
04/29/2020 08:15 AM	Chris Grace	Please allow school districts to have the flexibility to do what is best for our student. We know what we've been through and what we need to do. You can provide appropriate funding for what is in the best interest of students.
04/29/2020 08:35 AM	Dr. David Guy	In reference to Sec 5.11.(b)(2), you are putting limits on the needs of students because of a perceived need in our economy. Working in a district (ISS), where we try our best to offer students the opportunity to expand their educational opportunity, by offering alignment with the college and university calendars and more opportunity to expand on their interests in the summer, I find the limitations being placed on the school calendars as detrimental to the students regardless of the perceived negatives to our economy. I have experienced the advantages felt by students and teachers in this past year and believe if you truly have the students in mind (which I feel personally as being more important than any aspect of your decisions) that you would make this a much more flexible calendar. What I have seen happen is, that when given the opportunity, other school districts have done as ISS because they too have seen the logic in the process. Once again we also see that restrictions placed against regular public as opposed to charter still show the bias of freedoms allowed to charters. The excuse of COVID-19 is being used by the leadership in the Senate to remove flexibility of educators who must jump through a long list of hoops that are guided by special interests as opposed to the general welfare of the students of our State.
04/29/2020 09:25 AM	Stephanie Harris	School districts should have the ability to set their own calendars. Using COVID-19 to legislate when schools should start is unfair. Local districts best understand the needs of their community and should have the flexibility to develop a calendar that works for them. Please value what is best for our students and remove the required start date from the legislation.
04/29/2020 09:32 AM	Mrs Alicia Conklin	I do not agree with 5.11b proposal - as a district that followed an Innovative Calendar this year, it was the BEST for breaks, curriculum flow, partnerships with higher ed, teacher PD and timing for assessments (especially High School). I do not feel that it's appropriate to use the virus as the push for this calendar agenda. What difference does it make to lawmakers? Isn't it about ideal conditions for students? If we are going to need a staggered starting model (or whatever DPI is proposing), it seems an earlier start that an Innovative Calendar provides would be optimal for time.
04/29/2020 09:36 AM	Mrs. Melissa Luffman	First, thank you for all your hard work during this time of such uncertainty. I am a public

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		<p>school teacher. In reviewing this proposed bill, I see many aspects that will positively affect our education system, but extending the school calendar is not one of them(pg. 18). Our students have been through enough this school year. I understand that the purpose may be to help with what was missed during our current school year, but at what expense? What we have lost this year cannot be recovered in extra days tack on to our calendar. This is not just about curriculum loses. Our students and state for that matter have suffered socially and emotionally as well. 180 instructional days is more than enough time for students in a school year. Please rethink this part of the bill for the 2020-2021 school year. I thank you for your time.</p> <p>Sincerely,  Melissa Luffman  8th grade Science  Lakeshore Middle  Mooresville, NC</p>
04/29/2020 09:41 AM	Mrs Brandy Thompson	<p>In this trying time and with all the adjustments that have already been made I am against the change of calendars and the number of instruction days.</p> <p>Students will do much better if things stay as consistent as possible. To expect a later start time in a calendar that currently follows a year-round school but yet wants teachers to finish the semester curriculum before winter break is not realistic and is not what is best for the students. Students that are dual-enrolled in local colleges and in high school would also struggle with multiple "calendars" to follow. This will also impact local district transportation when we are not doing remote learning. A state budget has yet to be passed that addresses teacher pay and now you are expecting teachers to do more and are still not providing a respectable compensation. I feel we are setting our schools up for losing teachers at a very fast rate. This is a bill that is rushed and is not taking into account what is best for the students of our state. I urge you to not pass this bill and to allow the districts to follow individual calendars that they have created in order to best meet their stakeholders needs.</p>
04/29/2020 09:42 AM	Tracey Waid	<p>I request that on p. 18 of the bill, school districts be provided flexibility relating to the school calendar. Our district is able to provide remote instruction meeting the state criteria for both the plan in this bill as well as from DPI. We would like to start earlier so we can get kids caught up earlier, since our district is able to do so in accordance with the other requirements.</p>
04/29/2020 09:44 AM	Mrs. Christina Hawkins	<p>I am a public high school teacher and a mother of two boys--ages 5 and 2. This section of the bill demonstrates how disconnected and out of touch the legislation is with the general public. The effects of COVID-19 have had profound negative effects on every member of our family. My kindergartner is typically a high achieving student who has always been enthusiastic about school and learning. As the weeks have gone on, his processing abilities and emotional well being has deteriorated significantly. It is to the point where getting him to do simple school tasks, such as writing 3-5 sentences, turns into an hour melt down.</p> <p>My son lives in a loving, stable home where both parents are still employed and getting paid. He does not have to worry about abuse, food, or if we can pay the bills. Furthermore, he excels in school and learning is typically easy for him. Yet, he is struggling to get through each day, let alone complete his academic work. If that is the case for him, how</p>

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		<p>much more of a challenge would this be for students who's basic needs are not being met or who struggle in school even in a normal setting?</p> <p>Additionally, NC likes to boast that they love and support their teachers. Shame on you for putting even more pressure on teachers who are taking care of their families, trying to take care of themselves, and seeking to support their students emotionally. We are all doing our best to provide structure for these kids. However, in this unprecedented situation, even the most motivated students are not functioning at their normal capacity, not even close.</p> <p>This is not the time to worry about your growth statistics. As an educator, I believe that a solid education is vital for everyone's well-being. The kind of education everyone should be focusing on right now is emotional well-being and pulling together as a community, not worrying about how this will reflect on our statistics. Take care of your community and your people. If you have forgotten, that is your job—to serve your constituents. I recommend you get a realistic read on the situation before you start making decisions.</p>
04/29/2020 09:48 AM	Ms. Megan Cahill Morris	<p>Greetings, North Carolina State Senators,</p> <p>As both a parent of elementary aged children and administrator in a North Carolina public elementary school, I feel uniquely positioned to offer input into the debate on this bill. I respectfully advocate for the consideration of elements of the House Bill 1035 that will assist in coping with the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic crisis, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- a delay in the K-3 class size reduction for 2020-21</li> <li>- a provision giving LEAs more allotment flexibility to help cope with the pandemic</li> <li>- delaying an expansion of the school calendar until such time that we have more information about the impacts of the pandemic beyond the 2019-20 school year</li> <li>- delaying expansion of Read to Achieve directives to give students and schools an opportunity to meet those already in place prior to the pandemic</li> </ul> <p>Thank you for your time and for your service to our state.</p> <p>Kind Regards,</p> <p>Megan B. Cahill Morris</p>
04/29/2020 09:50 AM	Ms Anne Haffey	<p>I am a teacher and a mother of a 3rd grader and a pre-schooler who receives special education services via public education. I work all day teaching my high school students virtually, teaching my 3rd grader who is in Spanish Immersion class and trying to help my special ed. 4 year old manage in the home. I hold Zoom classes in the day, I prepare lessons in the evening while my children are asleep, and I grade in the evening. I am working more hours now than I was when we were not virtual. My 3rd grade son completes his work every day online. He holds a zoom class with his teacher, who is doing a fantastic job of teaching in Spanish. However, my students who are special needs are NOT getting their needs met. It is virtually impossible to make sure that their modifications are met via a computer. North Carolina's educators are doing the best we can to teach our students in the midst of a global pandemic. As time passes we will continue to find ways to make remote teaching and learning more effective, with training and time. However, what we're already seeing is there are an untold number of factors that we have absolutely</p>

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		no control over. Coming right out of the gate and setting an impossibly high bar sends the wrong message to our state's educators at a time of crisis when collaboration is crucial. What we need most from state legislators as we navigate these uncharted waters is the resources to ensure that all of our students have access to the education that is their right.
04/29/2020 09:53 AM	Ms Allison Chouinard	As a public school teacher in NC, I do not agree with section 5.11 (b) and the date requirements proposed. For the 2019-2020 school year, the Iredell Statesville School rolled out a new innovative calendar that allowed high school level exams to be given before Christmas break due to beginning the school year earlier in August. For students, this calendar makes so much more sense in arranging the best possible scenario for timely state assessments. It is not logical to make students take their state exams after returning from a two-week holiday break. Many students and teachers voiced how much more effective they felt that the new Innovative Calendar was for students in our district. At this point, all future planning being done due to COVID-19 is based purely on speculation. We have no way of knowing if indeed life will be back to normal in August or if the COVID issues will still be affecting normal school openings. Please do not make a decision to change innovative school district calendars for this coming year based on speculation. Please allow Iredell Statesville Schools to continue with the innovative calendar initiated this past school year and give our district leaders a chance to show that it is indeed the best calendar for students.
04/29/2020 10:06 AM	Isaac Richardson	Please do not put additional requirements on school calendar scheduling. Our school district has already approved next year's calendar and I would like to follow it when we return to school. Families have already made vacation and travel plans, based on the locally approved calendar for 20-21. Extending the school year is unnecessary. Teachers have always worked to close gaps in their student's education and have been doing so within a traditional 180 day school year. Please do not change the calendar dates or extend the school year.
04/29/2020 10:09 AM	Mrs. Traci Fox	I'm a 20+ year educator in Iredell-Statesville Schools (I-SS). I've taught at Statesville High School (SHS) and now I'm an ELA content coach at our 3 Restart schools, which includes SHS. I'm also a parent of a junior at SHS. I'd like to comment about the proposed start and end date for all schools. I realize that the innovative calendar in I-SS this year has been a point of contention for many politicians and a subject of discussions for lawsuits. What I don't understand is why we have to have a cookie cutter approach to our preparations for the return of students post-COVID. I also don't understand why STUDENTS aren't considered when making decisions about calendar dates. I can attest first hand to the validity to the argument that beginning school earlier to allow for alignment of traditional schools and early colleges is what's best for students. I can also attest to the fact that allowing our high school students, particularly those at the underperforming schools, to take their first semester exams prior to their Christmas/Winter break is absolutely a best practice and what's best for STUDENTS. I would ask that before making this decision, that you would consider the gains our educators and students have already made in adapting to remote learning. I would ask that you trust the local school districts to make decisions about the calendar that is what's best for their customers (students). Please put your political agenda aside when making this decision. Do what's right for kids!



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04/29/2020 10:10 AM	Ms. Blythe Ardyson	<p>I am an Occupational Therapist working in the public school system in NC. I also have 2 children who attend public schools in NC. I know you are discussing a COVID-19 Relief Act this morning that will include a large number of provisions for the public schools for both the 2019-20 and the 2020-2021 school years. I have read the portions of this act pertaining to public education in NC, and much of it will help our students, families, and educators respond appropriately to this unprecedented crisis. However, it does not include two necessary increases in flexibility that school administrators and educators will need in order to effectively implement the requirements for the 2020-21 school year: delays in the K-3 class size reduction and a provision giving LEAs more allotment flexibility to deal with the pandemic. Our ethical obligations as educators and this bill are asking us to attempt to reinvent education in a matter of months, and to find ways to reach each kind of student learner living in every possible situation effectively enough to learn material at home at an equivalent rate as they can learn it at school. This is an almost Herculean task that will take all of our collective skill, effort, and resources. We are committed to carrying out this task as best as we can, as that is our job and the promise we have made to our students and to the future of NC. However, asking us to do this while simultaneously finding ways to reduce K-3 class sizes and not providing us with more allotment flexibility is asking too much. By asking this much, you are risking our ability to educate our students effectively next year, which will jeopardize not only individual students' futures, but also the future of a generation and of this wonderful state we call home. Please include provisions allowing for a delay of the reduction in K-3 class sizes and giving LEAs more allotment flexibility for next year. We need this flexibility where we can have it to be more flexible in response to the pandemic, something over which we have very little control.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration, Blythe Ardyson, OTR/L</p>
04/29/2020 10:10 AM	Mrs. Suzanne Pruett	<p>As a teacher and a parent, I am utterly appalled that you all are trying to slide in educational components at this time of global crisis. Not only are they ridiculously punitive, but they also do not take into account the work students, parents, and teachers have had to do beyond the required academic curriculum. Parents are trying to get their students on a schedule (maybe--in some homes, if a child is fortunate); some of my high school students have been charged with daycare as their parents continue to work or work themselves because their parents lost their jobs, leaving little time to address academic needs; students are trying to self-regulate given the loss of all their social interactions and routines. Social-Emotional wellbeing has been a large focus for all of us. Adding time to the calendar largely belittles the work we have done. If there have been gaps in learning, teachers address that EVERY year. Is this year different? Yes. Parents, students, and teachers have been amazingly and profoundly flexible. Now is the time for the NC Senate to reflect that same flexibility. We ARE all in this TOGETHER.</p>
04/29/2020 10:26 AM	April Byrd	<p>Realizing the many competing priorities from all sectors I want to bring to your attention the growing financial strain facing Adult Care Homes (ACH) and the organizations that operate them in North Carolina. These important facilities provide independent living for many adults throughout NC with Intellectual and Developmental Disorders while making sure they are able to provide the day-to-day support these special adults need. ACHs are not meant to have residents in their facilities all day like the ICF-IID. With COVID19 and the</p>



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		state at home mandate has increased staffing costs due to needing to staff homes 24/7 since residents are there during the day now vs. at work, their day programs, or volunteering in the community (as pre-COVID19). Now they are home, like the rest of us, but for these adults the disruption to their routines has had a much greater impact and in most cases quite unsettling to them. The cost of additional care needed from providers has significantly increased to properly operate ACHs under the current conditions & requirements. Please include Adult Care Homes (ACH) when appropriating funds to support Long-term Care and Intermediate Care Facilities. Adult Care Homes, are grossly underfunded as a result of COVID-19. Including support for ACHs will ensure that some of our most vulnerable citizens are being properly taken care of during the precarious times. There are 591 Adult Care Homes in North Carolina.
04/29/2020 10:37 AM	Mrs Leanne Cunningham	You need to pass legislation to provided every citizen in NC broadband internet, pass legislation to feed every child whose parents lost their job or cannot work from home, and pass legislation to pay workers a living wage. These are a few of the factors that educators have no control over. Teachers are moving heaven and earth to teach students during this unprecedented time and getting 50%-80% participation. We spend much time tracking down students to try and bring lessons to them in other formats. If the parents doesn't pick up lessons then the child doesn't complete them. You have been a leader in running down the work of educators and the public school system so it is no wonder half of the students will not participate. We are doing the best we can with what we have and without parental support, then students will not attend. We need to be held harmless in this time and cannot possibly achieve the same growth and learning remotely as we do in person. I teach Nutrition and Wellness and the students do not get the kitchen lab experiences virtually as they do in person. I can't ask them to cook at home due to the liability of the school district. I also teach Child Care and Interpersonal Relationships. Within the course, students can get certified by American Red Cross in Babysitting. The skills cannot be assessed online because they have to be preformed using the manikins. Passing this will demonstrate the little regard you have for the public school system and the lack of support. We are crazy busy building this plane as we fly it and we are having some success. Allow us to solve our problems without adding a layer of 'big brother' /non local control. We will reflect and see how to do it better next year if it is necessary.
04/29/2020 11:21 AM	Pam Lilley	It is misguided to think that students receiving virtual instruction will have equitable results with those receiving face-to-face instruction. Can we ensure that every family will have equitable access to Internet? Can we ensure every family will have access to food and a place to live? Can we ensure that every family will have someone there to support them at home? On the flip side, can we ensure that every student going in to school to receive face to face instruction will be as protected from Covid as those whose families can keep them isolated at home? This is the first time in 100 years our planet has experienced such a viral pandemic. Education is absolutely still a priority as should equity, but that starts with staying alive and staying healthy. Students whose parents are dying because they bringing Covid home are going to suffer physically, academically, and emotionally. If virtual learning continues to be an option into the 20-21 school year, I will exercise that option. If my son starts to slip behind academically, I will consider it a small price to pay so that our family can stay healthy and ALIVE!
04/29/2020 11:22 AM		It is unfair to expect students to accomplish and complete work to the same level they would at school. This is an issue of privilege, students with parent support, working wifi

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04/29/2020 11:44 AM	Andria Krewson	<p>and technology are going to make more progress than other students. We are creating a greater divide in our students through this and saying that they should make the same amount of growth is unacceptable.</p> <p>Regarding changes to unemployment compensation rules:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The cap of 20% on earnings while getting unemployment benefits should be raised; the existing cap discourages workers from earning above the cap and keeps them at near-poverty levels of income. Their option is to do as workers in other states have traditionally done, asking to get paid "under the table", which then denies taxes to the state.</li> <li>2. Unemployment benefits currently get reduced or eliminated if a recipient is receiving pension income, but not if they're receiving social security income. That makes no sense - why should individuals who receive private or state-paid pensions have unemployment compensation reduced or eliminated? Please delete the rule about pension income being used to cut or eliminate unemployment compensation.</li> </ol> <p>Thank you for your time.</p>
04/29/2020 11:48 AM	SB704 - Remote Learning Ed Harper	<p>Good Morning,</p> <p>My name is Ed Harper and I am a band director at Concord High School in Cabarrus County. I recently heard that there was discussion about tying remote learning standards and assessments to SB704. While I am not afraid to put my students' knowledge up for assessment, this is certainly not the time. Please consider the equity of students that have chosen to not participate, against the students who cannot. Nor should we hold students who don't have the means to the ones that do. Also, as a band director, I am trying to meet the needs of all of my students through both performance and traditional means. This is very challenging and not like what we are asked to do in person. Just know... students are choosing to not participate if they are satisfied with their grades from earlier in the year. We are not allowed to hold them accountable to continue to participate. We are being asked to submit lessons for our students with no incentive for them to complete them. This is so disheartening for teachers when we thrive to give constructive feedback for our students and they either can't or won't participate. The ones that are are benefiting greatly from 1-on-1 attention, but as an educator, I will not be happy with having to submit data that is not reflective of my "normal" teaching. The only way I would find this helpful is to show that virtual education DOES NOT WORK. My field thrives on communication, both verbal and nonverbal, and we cannot achieve this online. Thank you for your time and I hope my thoughts help in forming arguments for and against this bill.</p>
04/29/2020 11:55 AM	Ruth Petersen	<p>Remote Learning Standard - Parents and students are suffering through hardships. Students do not all have access to online learning equally. For music classes, there is not a way to rehearse an ensemble where all play or sing at the same time. The technology does not exist yet. Although teachers are working very hard to make remote learning work, it is not as effective as being face-to-face with our students. The expectation that teachers and students can be held to the same learning standards via remote learning is not realistic. Please reconsider this standard. Thank you!</p>
04/29/2020 12:07 PM	Mrs Patricia Ball	<p>Assessing students on their own land learning will only give you data on their</p>

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		socioeconomic status. Online teaching is not the same from place to place, expecting students to achieve at the same levels that they would in school is ridiculous. Plus, our state testing doesn't even measure growth. How are you going to implement measuring growth through an online model when your basic testing doesn't even measure said growth?
04/29/2020 12:37 PM	Mr. Josh Cvijanovic	<p>The proposal for remote learning standards on SB 704 is at this point unrealistic and unachievable. As a public educator and the parent of a Pre-K and an elementary-aged student, expecting remote learning to meet the standards and expectations of in-person learning is not feasible. The audacity of this request is only made worse by the imposed June 30 deadline. In education, we are working hard to provide materials to the best of our ability, as the expectations and instructions we are receiving are changing on a daily basis. Teachers are working diligently with our administration and support systems to not only meet the educational needs of our students but their mental and emotional health and well-being as well. We have not even begun to be able to ascertain how to make up for the lost instructional time of this Spring, let alone make those adjustments for next fall. Expecting LEAs to be prepared to meet these arbitrary and self-imposed criteria is callous and unethical. Unless the General Assembly is prepared to provide every student in North Carolina with the means to participate in remote learning on a consistent basis, we cannot begin to put these next steps into place. I would urge all of our representatives to resist the urge to move too quickly on this and continue working with those in public education to create meaningful and realistic expectations and timelines.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
04/29/2020 12:37 PM	Remote Ed Andrew Washburn	Legislating teacher accountability to normal classroom standards during this pandemic is as unnecessary as it is unenforceable. REWRITE THE BILL.
04/29/2020 12:41 PM	Mrs Gayle Scott	The expectation of this legislative body that teachers will be able to guide academic growth of students to the same level as in class instruction is absurd. You have failed to do your duty to provide this state with a budget and to fully fund public education. And now you expect teachers to work miracles with nothing. Remote learning environments require extensive planning and access to appropriate material. It is your duty to provide the funds that will allow educators to do their job. Perhaps this committee could start by looking at what they can provide to help educators rather than placing additional obstacles in our paths.
04/29/2020 12:59 PM	Ms. Alisha Cardwell	Remote learning is not in the best interests of our students or teachers. Students are not equipped with the right materials or the mental capabilities to be able to handle online learning long term. My students have expressed hardships of home life, balancing jobs, stress, and concerns with their mental wellbeing. Students do not feel like they are getting an adequate education. While there is an overwhelming amount of students who can't do their remote work, there is also a large number who are refusing to do remote work because they feel that they don't have to because they will pass anyway. Students need social interaction, support, and a routine provided by school systems. Students need discipline, one on one instruction, and an environment away from the distractions at home to complete their school work. Many parents are not equipped to handle the needs that their child requires to be successful at online learning. Many parents still have to work full time, and can't afford or find child care. Many parents have multiple children they're trying

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04/29/2020 01:18 PM	Education Policies Mark Cashin	<p>to help at home while also working full time to provide for their families. In the community where I teach, there has been a significant increase in juvenile crime since school has been out. If we want what's best for our students, we need them to be in a physical school building. The performing arts will suffer tremendously, early childhood classes will suffer tremendously, and students will not be equipped to enter society as functioning adults if they don't have guidance and support to get them there through their pivotal high school years. As an educator, I am doing everything I can to reach these students and I feel like I'm not doing enough. I'm logging hours and hours of phone calls, emails, online lessons, etc and I'm still only reaching a small percentage of my students. Please do everything you can to get our students back in school this fall. All of our futures depend on it.</p> <p>It is impossible to expect the same learning through distance as it could be expected in person. Meeting a June 30th deadline to essentially recreate public education into an at-home or distance format is both short sighted and setting our educators up for failure. When our federal government and state barely has a functional plan for opening back up, it strikes me as hypocritical to expect something like that crafted for educators. The continued lack of public funding of education dating back to the implementation of the education lottery (which is down at least 20% of funding now for education due to COVID) is continued if these expectations are granted.</p> <p>There are so many more challenges to teaching outside the classroom, including a stark inequality of access for students. Parents are trying to work or find work while supporting distance learning, and this virus has continued to expose the weight places upon schools in providing babysitting on top of education (Free and Reduced Meals for breakfast and lunch, transportation, school-issued technology, before and after school hours for families that cannot be there when children are "out of school", after school programs like sports and fine arts to supplement their academic curriculum).</p> <p>From what I have seen, when we threw out standardized testing students for the year and stopped getting in the way of educators, they were able to foster innovative and creative ways to connect with students and families. Teaching from distance is naturally an extremely challenge because proximity heightens engagement of a developing mind.</p> <p>I strongly urge you to consider suspending an expectation of digital learning until at the minimum August 1st. I also profoundly explore you to consider not placing these proposed expectation on public education because you have yet to fully grasp and unpack the natural inequality that North Carolinians are under when in-person instruction has been suspended.</p> <p>Please feel free to reach out to me for further feedback. I am a private school educator, but recognize that without robust and proper public education, our society is going to fall apart. Educators are considered "essential personnel", and we need to do more for them and to support them as they continue to go above and beyond expectation yearly, especially during this COVID pandemic!</p>
04/29/2020 01:19 PM	Mrs. Cynthia Lynn	<p>Your requirement for schools to come up with a way to ensure that "remote instructional time, practice, and application components produce learning growth that is commensurate with what would have taken place had the remote instruction day been a</p>

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04/29/2020 01:26 PM	William Newsome	<p>non-remote instruction day" shows how out of touch Senators are with what is going on in the world right now. Not every child has the same access as ever other child. For example, a family with 5 children and 2 computers cannot work as much as a family with 1 child and 1 computer. To expect teachers to somehow make that work is unreasonable, unless the state provides computers and internet to every student. And even then, not every student has support at home to make sure they are doing the work. When we cannot see them in class, we cannot be held responsible for what they do at home. These are not students who signed up for distance learning. This is the result of a global pandemic and to expect the same level of learning during this is unreasonable.</p> <p>As a public school teacher in a rural and area with a high rate of students in low socioeconomic status, I'm deeply concerned about the proposed requirements for schools during the pandemic. As we have been instructed by our elected school officials, we must demonstrate grace, flexibility, and understanding for all of our students during this unprecedented time. I'm incredibly proud of how quickly our state has rallied together to provide computers, wireless hotspots, and meaningful online instruction. We also need to be well aware of the fact that our state is still trying to reach every student from our schools. In my school alone, we've been able to make contact with about 1100 of our 1400 students. It took the entire school faculty and staff to reach this number, but we're not done trying to reach the remaining 300+ students. To require schools to produce the same plans for student achievement and growth, as if we were in the school building a few months ago, is simply not feasible. We are trying to go above and beyond to continue to provide meaningful instruction to all of our students, while unfortunately not able to reach everyone. A majority of my students are now responsible for babysitting siblings, assisting siblings with remote learning, working for family companies with their new found time so that their family can still be fed, and experiencing extreme uncertainty and grief during this time... all while trying to continue their high school education. Please, for the sake of our students' mental and emotional health, demonstrate some grace, flexibility and understanding in your policy making.</p>
04/29/2020 01:37 PM	Donna Kuni	<p>Trying to create a unified grading system during this pandemic is impossible. Teachers are continuing to work hard and provide as much as possible to ALL students. Thus also only states public schools and NOT charter or private schools. This once again demonstrates the lack of commitment to the public education system and decisions being made by no -educators. As a parent I am very concerned to the decisions being made in this proposal and once again treating teachers and what they do, going above and beyond, for students. This is an unprecedented time and time to support teachers and what they do</p>
04/29/2020 01:38 PM	Ms Shayne Klein	<p>I am deeply concerned about Section 5.11a and 5.11b of SB704. These provisions put more, unrealistic burdens on schools in a time of great crisis. Teachers and administrators have struggled to quickly (in our case in one day) to switch to remote learning, to provide devices and internet access to students, and to completely revamp systems. We are continuing to do this work day in and day out. It is not feasible for charters and LEAs to provide the kind of plan required in this bill 60 days from now. Most of that time will be spent making plans for graduations, retrieving and distributing supplies (like textbooks), finalizing grades under the new grading plan from the SBE, and dealing with enrollment for next year. Furthermore, remote leaning will not be of the same quality as in person learning. It will not meet the needs effectively of students with disabilities,</p>

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		those with insecure home lives, and even those who generally excel in school. Finally, the provision to add 5 days to the calendar (remote learning days) is another unfunded mandate. Without widespread access to broadband and increased funding for devices this provision will not enhance learning in North Carolina.
04/29/2020 01:42 PM	Johnny Davis	<p>Greetings to all, especially Mr. Ford and Mr. Berger. It came to my attention that the Senate Bill on the Coronavirus situation contain some provisions I find troubling. They specifically concern a requirement for school systems to submit a plan for distance learning that concerns guaranteeing remote learning will bear the same results that in-classroom activity does. The provisions need to be stripped from the bill. I can well understand the desire of some to relegate the classroom to the past in favor of a cheaper-one-teacher-200 students-no building to maintain model. However, I am a classroom teacher of 23 years experience, who has done distance learning at the community college level prior to the current crisis. My experience is that only the most motivated adults succeed well at distance learning. My experience in the past weeks have shown me that distance learning is probably not the best model for adolescents- I teach high school social studies and can tell you that this is not the best for people whose maturity varies wildly and fluctuates greatly from day to day. Also, even if it were, the infrastructure is not there to support it. We are not at the point where everyone has unfettered or cheap access to great internet service statewide. Another factor against this is the desire to make this so by June 30th..... This is not a matter for a quick decision. A commission should be appointed to do a study of it, and properly, recommend steps to take, and then the steps enacted by the processes of legislation. Which brings up another matter-policy decisions should not be buried in appropriations bills. Any such decision should be made on its own. I thank you all for your time and attention.</p>
04/29/2020 01:46 PM	Mr. Nathan Bowman	<p>As a Band Teacher in Rowan-Salisbury I have multiple concerns over this bill.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) It is my understanding that every student has the right of a free, public and equitable education in the state of NC. Being in the trenches, trying to teach band remotely, I have quickly found that is extremely difficult, if not impossible to teach a performing ensemble class remotely. This takes away the personalization of the class, ensembles can not play together via zoom or google meet, the tech lag is simply sub par. Therefore a chunk of the standards that I am required to have students prove mastery in students is not able to be met.</li> <li>2) Until reliable internet is guaranteed for every student (some even free due to student socio-economic status), not every student will be able to have that equitable education.</li> <li>3) You can ask any teacher for their remote learning participation data and it will clearly show that participation has a steep decline because not all conditions at home are suitable for student learning. For example, students living in poverty, living in their cars, group homes, etc... it brings up the concern of being able to provide a Fair and Appropriate Education (equitable education).</li> <li>4) I understand that remote learning is essential in this unprecedented time, however; we can not weigh the remote learning the same as in class person. Students need that time in the class room, with the teacher. That, clearly needs to be the most heavily weighed portion with remote learning serving as an additional resource to compliment their education without holding as much weight.</li> </ol>
04/29/2020 02:02 PM	Band Teacher Joshua Mitchell	Having students assessed and held to the same standard as in person learning via remote



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		learning is an impractical and impossible suggestion. Many students do not have internet, most parents have to work and cant make sure their children complete assignments. You are not teachers, you dont understand that what you're proposing simply WILL.NOT WORK.
04/29/2020 02:15 PM	Christy OBrien	The task of coming up with a feasible plan for education during this crisis by the Senate posted deadline of June 30 is Ludicrous. The time to formulate and implement such a plan was months ago. It is unrealistic to have teachers from across the state create this when your leadership will reject any plan not created I. Raleigh. Shame on you.
04/29/2020 02:19 PM	Mr. Danny Green	It seems this puts the cart before the horse. We have only scratched the surface with online teaching and learning. Both areas will change frequently and evolve as we teachers and students strive to achieve their highest possible quality. Putting guidelines and expectations on paper now only serve to lesson our chances of achieving the best results in the future.
04/29/2020 02:36 PM	NCGA Covid Bill Travis Pike	This is asinine to expect and makes no sense. Us teachers and these students are working crazily right now. With everyone's different situations and different accessibility to resources, there is no way this is plausible. We're lucky to be getting the growth we are getting during this Pandemic. And we wonder why so many teachers are leaving the profession and why younger generations aren't wanting to become teachers. We're the only professionals who aren't treated like professionals, even during unprecedented times like these.
04/29/2020 02:43 PM	Mrs Heidi Hickox-Gordon	No matter how great of a teacher you are OR the subject area you teach, you canNOT replace the classroom learning experience with online learning. NO way.
04/29/2020 02:47 PM	Teacher Lisa Hiatt	<p>How can remote learning even be COMPARED to teaching in the classroom??</p> <p>When I am at school, I have person to person contact with my students every day. Since remote learning began, I have students that I rarely have any contact with or get work submitted to me. This is despite the MULTIPLE attempts by teachers, counselors and administrators trying to reach them also.</p> <p>When my students are with me, I have some control over their learning environment . Since March 13, that has been taken away from me and my students. I have many students who have to watch other siblings, have nobody around to supervise online learning, and have no internet access.</p> <p>Also, i have been teaching in the classroom for 20 years. I have been teaching online forTWO months. This has been a seat-of-the- pants operation. Do you all think we had online learning plans just stored away and waiting for this occasion?</p> <p>This whole idea is lunacy and needs to be stopped.</p> <p>Lisa H.</p>
04/29/2020 03:05 PM	Mr. Jason Childers	THE NCGA Bill concerning testing students during online learning at home flies against what I see happening in my home. I am disgusted that our state politicians continue to present NC public education with policies aimed at failure. I have one 6th grader and one 3rd grader in my house - each are completely opposite learners. One lives to complete assignments, while the other takes a full time effort from either parent to complete a minimum of work. I am so thankful for public educators in our state, and what they do on a daily basis for my children. The NCGA's actions over the past four years concerning teacher raises, stripping masters degree pay, continuing state testing despite at home,

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		remote learning shows a complete lack of understanding of what is needed for our students. I'll say this as straight to the point as I can. You are not serving our children well. Our children deserve better. They deserve our very best. A wise politician would look at Covid-19 and all that is going on in our world for our children, and determine that patience is needed right now. I trust our teachers to bridge the gap in education that will be made by this virus. It may take 1-2 years or even longer to repair, but teachers will be on the front line of making sure children everywhere have what they need - both in life, and in the classroom. Not politicians. Stay out of the way, and put away your testing manuals for a little while.
04/29/2020 04:06 PM	In response to SB 704 Melani Winter	This bill has the potential to be really, really strong. However, I'm concerned with Section 511(a), point 9. Schools are to show that our students' instruction is "commensurate" with what they would receive in the classroom. This, I cannot express enough, is impossible. And I believe that you know this is impossible, since the Senate so wisely canceled EOCs, etc. Please don't require something so unfair to the students and so unrealistic for schools. We are doing the best we can with what we have. Please work with that.
04/29/2020 04:26 PM	Mrs. Kelly Rudisill	Remote learning is NOT effective for students. If we grade student learning that has taken place during remote teaching, we are grading privilege. We are grading socioeconomic standing. We are grading the inequity that public school teachers have always seen in their classrooms.
04/29/2020 04:42 PM	Chris Garmon	Transitioning to online teaching has been difficult to say the least. As a teacher, I have a hard time assessing students, especially with the disparities of access to technology that goes along with an abrupt change to online learning. I certainly don't feel comfortable with my delivery of instruction, much less holding kids accountable for my lack of training to go on their permanent record.
04/29/2020 04:43 PM	Lindalyn Kakadelis	Regarding Section 5.11(a) - Remote Instruction Plan. Would suggest the plans for charter schools be reviewed by the Office of Charter Schools (OCS) OCS knows the nuances of charter schools. Otherwise - individual school plans will be reviewed the same as district plans. There is a world of difference between an individual school (200 and growing), and a system of schools (115 districts). The Districts could submit their report to DPI's Division of Digital Teaching & Learning. The reporting by SBE could combine the reporting or have it disaggregated. If this is not put into statute SBE will more than likely group all plans together. Lindalyn Kakadelis - Executive Director - NC Coalition for Charter Schools
04/29/2020 04:44 PM	Mr William Larson	Its about time the legislature votes to expand Medicare and Medicaid. The ongoing crisis with Corvid-19 shows the need for it.
04/29/2020 04:44 PM	Ms Gillian Brogneaux	You can no more require teachers to be held accountable for learning that takes place remotely than you hold yourselves responsible for the number of people sick with Covid-19
04/29/2020 04:50 PM	Mrs. Liz Weide	You cannot expect the norm in an abnormal situation. NOTHING from this school year can be compared to previous years. Is there ANY industry in the state that could stand up to that expectation right now?
04/29/2020 04:53 PM	Mr. Joshua Trivett	Teachers are doing their part to make sure students are well and safe. A majority of teachers are still teaching new concepts and providing EC services. But to have a standard

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		for measuring growth in this time is one of the most tone-deaf pieces of legislation in recent history. Students are not in typical situations for learning. Teachers are still get acclimated to remote teaching. Nothing is perfect and it is wrong to expect growth during a global pandemic. Trust our teachers and give them support.
04/29/2020 04:59 PM	Mr. William Allen	I write to express my concern about the wording of the education section of the bill. The bill demands that the districts would be able to put together an online plan in less than two months that would show the same growth as in a normal classroom setting. This is totally out of touch with reality. First, teachers need time to make plans that would work online, and there are so many variables (grade levels, EC, AP, IB, etc. ) that one plan does not fit all. Second, we still have many students who are not unable to get online for various reasons and we still need to figure out to reach them. Third, and most importantly, it is NOT realistic to expect students to be online for six to eight HOURS a day, especially the smaller children. And for the high school students, they would not only have to be online for that many hours but THEN to have homework. This is not realistic. Please talk to the veteran educators like us who know the reality of the classroom. This looks like all you care about is grading the districts or us, and you don't care about the students!
04/29/2020 06:50 PM	Testing distance learning Erin Ingram	We cannot test students in an environment in which teachers are not responsible. This wouldn't be testing the comprehension of students. It would test their privilege and access to things like internet and an adult that can help them through their homework, instead. Testing students at this juncture would be irresponsible and unfair.
04/29/2020 07:03 PM	Timothy Foskey	The number one best thing the GA can do for our citizens right now is expand Medicaid. We're throwing away federal dollars that will help our state health care system, just because it was part of "Obamacare". Never mind that it really helps. Please get this done.
04/29/2020 07:21 PM	Ms. Sandra Capps	The members of the General Assembly seem to be out of touch with reality. Do any of them have young children who are trying to learn with on-line education, or are any of them helping young children with their schoolwork. They have no appreciation for our teachers and other educational staff and what they contend with everyday. I'd like to see them take an on-line class that would be geared to adults and be in subjects unfamiliar to them and then take a test at the end of a three-month course of study and see how well they would do. Some of these children do not have computers or access to the internet. Believe it or not, there are many poor families in North Carolina who struggle with putting food on the table and have no way to provide a lot of the things that the average family considers to be necessary. I have been embarrassed by the General Assembly and its actions over the past few years, embarrassed enough that I changed my party registration to "unaffiliated". Quit playing political games and try and do what is best for the people of North Carolina!
04/29/2020 07:48 PM	Teacher Amanda Whitford	This is ridiculous especially when teachers were thrown into something we have never been required to do before and so were our students. No matter how effective you are as a teacher there are going to be some children who do not have the home life that will work well with online learning. The classroom provides so many benefits to students that cannot be fully achieved through online sessions, emails, phone calls or texts. I can't believe that our government is trying to use this horrible situation to save money and further challenge an overwhelmed public school system. My students keep mentioning how much they miss being in school not only for the social aspect but because they learn better in that environment.

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04/29/2020 08:35 PM	Mr. Daniel Wunker	I am a public school teacher in Greenville, NC. I have been teaching for 17 years. I highly recommend that the NC General Assembly rethinks the notion that it could be at all possible for the remote learning that has happened since March 16th to have the same educational impact on students as face-to-face learning. Asking schools to supply evidence that student achievement has remained the same is unrealistic and shows a detachment from reality. This is not remote learning. This is not homeschooling. This is pandemic learning. Are we doing our best and innovating new strategies to reach every student? Of course we are. But we can not, and SHOULD NOT, be held to the same standard as we would under normal circumstances. There are just too many things that are OUT OF OUR CONTROL to be fairly held accountable for what has happened and what will happen until June.
04/29/2020 10:15 PM	Teacher Assistant/Bus Dri Aileen Jones	I have been a loyal employee for 24 years as a Teacher Assistant and bus driver. I am used to both salaries to pay my bills. I have the opportunity to work as a Teacher Assistant through virtual meetings and PD. However, since I can not drive my bus I am not being compensated. I feel the care act section 18006 applies to the bus drivers in my position. I have been told by administration that it does not. Can you please clarify this do us. Thank you from Lenoir County, NC
04/29/2020 10:25 PM	Mrs. Jennifer Flanagan	<p>Ask any parent about the online learning experience, and you'll likely get a slightly different story. Some households are faring well. In some homes, students are being supported by doting parents, and all children in the household have their own personal device. In some homes, both parents are nurses and the high schooler is serving as a babysitter and tutor for his three younger siblings. In some homes, both parents are laid off due to the pandemic and tensions in the household are high - parents aren't handling the stress well, leaving children to fend for themselves. And in some homes, a parent has stage 4 cancer and the entire household is locked down and terrified.</p> <p>Then, there are the teachers. Ask any teacher about the online teaching experience, and you'll get a different story, depending on the teacher you ask. One teacher has grown children and easily creates her digital lessons on the weekend and has all day long to grade, uninterrupted. Another teacher has a phenomenal hands-on approach to teaching science and has suddenly been forced to turn all of his labs into an online learning experience; he's not very computer savvy, and his anxiety is through the roof as a result. Another teacher has a four year old, a child with special needs, and a middle schooler to contend with during the school day - her husband is an essential employee and is gone from 7:30 until 5:30 everyday. She tries and tries to get it all done, but sometimes she just falls short.</p> <p>Abraham Lincoln once said, "The dogmas of the quiet past are inadequate to the stormy present. The occasion is piled high with difficulty and we must rise with the occasion. As our case is new, we must think anew and act anew. We must disenthrall ourselves, and then we shall save our country." While I understand the value of measurable data, this is not the time.</p> <p>There are so many stories. We all want to move forward, to put this entire mess in the past and continue on with life as it always was. But these stories....</p>

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		<p>Every. Single. Story.</p> <p>They are all lessons in disguise. What do these stories tell us about who we are, about what we value? What collective American portrait do the stories paint? And what do they tell us about who we teach, how we've organized ourselves, and what we prioritize?</p> <p>It's time to listen to the stories. To ignore them is irresponsible.</p>
04/30/2020 08:12 AM	Jonathan Morrison	<p>After reading the bill, I did not find any information on how students who do not have access to technology will be provided what is necessary for remote learning. How does the state government plan on providing the funds needed to purchase more technology as well as paying the companies who will support the students with the internet necessary for remote learning?</p>
04/30/2020 08:41 AM	Mr. Paul Ingram	<p>Please consider funding \$300 Million to NCDOT to assist with their budget shortfall.</p> <p>Over the last year the Department has suffered through tough times financially due to the unprecedented and unbudgeted storms and increased litigation costs due to MAP Act claims. Now that the Covid-19 pandemic has created a "Stay at home" order, the Department has taken a huge blow in their gas tax revenue and other highway fund receipts. On April 17, 2020, NCDOT cut their consulting inspection staff by 50% (effective April 24, 2020) placing hundreds of qualified inspectors and engineers jobless. NCDOT has also cut their twelve-month letting list by 2.1 billion dollars (75% of the initial program), forecasting a grim future for the construction industry.</p> <p>This is not only devastating to our industry but to the citizens of North Carolina. Transportation is a critical element that drives the economy of North Carolina but even more importantly provides for the safety and well-being of the traveling public. As consulting inspection services have now been so depleted that adequate construction inspection is being jeopardized, further funding shortfalls will provide long-lasting negative effects to our highway system. The construction industry is essential to our state's economic strength by building roads and bridges that facilitate the movement of commerce and people across this great state.</p> <p>Thank you for your service and please support immediate funding for NCDOT so that our industry can continue this essential service to our citizens.</p>
04/30/2020 09:43 AM	Marla Young	<p>As a music teacher, I am very concerned about any proposed limits on class size and performance venues. That is the heart of what we do in music classes, particularly from middle school through high school. Many of my students are helped in the rest of their school day because they have music as a part of it and I am worried that if these standards aren't carefully evaluated, music classes may be squeezed out of the daily class schedule.</p>
04/30/2020 10:05 AM	Judy Anderson	<p>allow yourselves to limit amount OF monies you appropriate for yourselves&amp; provide monies for the working class of NC. DO NOT PAY THOSE FOR WHO ARE NOT IN ATTENDANCE OR GIVE DAILY PREDIEM. THEY EXPECT OTHERS TO WORK BUT THEY CANT SEEM TO... WOW. ELECTIONS ARE COMING! LET THEM TRY TO FILE FOR UNEMPLOYMENT LIKE ALL THOSE WHO ARE WERE</p>

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04/30/2020 10:18 AM	Ms. Christine Conley	<p>WORKING &amp; R TRYING TO GET THRU PROCESS.</p> <p>You have a huge burden when passing this bill. I appreciate that none of this is easy and you are all traveling in uncharted waters.</p> <p>As an educator, I am also in uncharted waters. Remote learning and teaching are poor substitutes for in-person instruction. I'm the chorus teacher at a Raleigh high school and have had to develop lessons for piano classes and my choirs. Many students do not have pianos and/or keyboards at home. Virtual choirs are more technological than choral. There is no substitute for the direct interaction of a performing ensemble. We have a lost a lot. Our concert was cancelled, our ability to sing at our senior assembly has been cancelled, and the ability to sing the Alma Mater at graduation - cancelled. All of those events would have been evidence of my students' growth. Am I teaching? Yes! Is it the same? No!</p> <p>I meet with my students during Google Meet every scheduled class period. I hold office hours outside of class time. I plan relevant and informative activities. I'm having the seniors work on their slideshow that we usually show during our spring concert. I'm doing those things that are relevant to the culture of a thriving vocal music program, but right now, I'm doing something way more important. I am making sure my students are okay. I'm checking in with them. I'm letting them know that I miss them and I want to know they are okay. If I don't hear from them, I call. I'm trying to make life as normal as possible in this completely "un-normal" time. I let them know that I love them. In conversations with other teachers across the state, they are doing the same thing while trying teach their curriculum remotely.</p> <p>You can't measure that on some sort of growth scale.</p> <p>Things are not the same. This pandemic is leaving an indelible mark on all of us and to expect teachers to prove or ensure that their students would be in the same place in their instruction as if the pandemic had not ocured, is unreasonable. That ship sailed when the first report of COVID-19 in North Carolina was made in March. That ship sailed when schools were closed and remote learning was instituted. That ship sailed when policies were being developed at Department of Public Instruction and at the State School Board.</p> <p>We are in uncharted waters. We all need flexibility, empathy, and support in order to keep our students, our children afloat. Unreasonable expectations of teachers and other education professionals would be like anchoring our ship during a tsunami.</p> <p>Thank you for allowing me to voice my concerns.</p>
04/30/2020 10:47 AM	Mrs. Brenda McCombs	<p>After reading DRS15447-MLfa-141D in entirety, I am concerned about the additional pressure and reporting requirements put on public schools, teachers, parents, and students. While we have been participating in remote instruction, I have been able to remotely observe my ten grandchildren's education process. The family with a single child (3rd grader) that has a teacher mom and a tech support dad has plenty of resources at home. She is reading above grade level and successful with her math goals. The second family of four has a dad that is deployed to Afghanistan. The stay-at-home mother is</p>



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		<p>exhausted trying to keep four children on task. Each child has a laptop available so there is no competition for available online time. Mom feels the schools should have spent their first week online training parents and students how to use the online services they are requiring the students to use. Teachers are not consistent in where they are posting assignments, how they are taking attendance, or where/how they are requiring students to submit their work. When her children work hard on an assignment, submit it and then find out the teacher didn't get it somehow, they become quickly discouraged. It is becoming increasingly difficult for mom to get the kids to log-on to school....they are giving up. The teacher daughter-in-law is also noticing this effect in her students. This week, only four students attended her zoom class. The rest have given up or don't have access. My third grandchildren family has five children ranging from 6 months to a high school senior. They have limited computer access since dad is also working from home. He is trying to care for the baby while his nurse wife goes to work in a hospital ICU. I cannot begin to describe the stress level in their home. Just getting through the day is a major chore so supervising school falls to the bottom of the critical list. The four school-age students are basically on their own and bumbling through as best they can.</p> <p>In the meantime, I've listened to many teacher friends talk about how many hours they are putting into converting their face to face lessons to an on-line experience without any real training in how to do this. They are giving it all they have because they have a vested interest in their students. They deeply want them to succeed but the current environment, as you can tell from my three examples, makes it very difficult.</p> <p>Please reconsider the additional rules, regulations, and reporting requirements listed in Section 5 of this bill. Delete them or at least modify them greatly. Don't let the teachers that have worked so hard for their students since March become more discouraged and heaven forbid, give up. My grandchildren and everyone else's grandchildren are counting on their expertise.</p>
04/30/2020 10:48 AM	Ms Sharon Bennett	<p>NCDOR statement says the legislature can amend the tax law for 2020 to forgive the interest charge for state returns completed and paid for by 7/15/20</p> <p>As I understand the Coronavirus - 19 tax relief statement issued 3/23/20, the deadline to file the state tax return has been extended to 7/15/2020 to match the Federal Income Tax Return deadline change, without incurring any penalty. The statement also says that an interest charge will be applied to the returns not paid before or by the 4/15/20 deadline as per tax law. The majority of the state income tax returns are derived from the data supplied by the federal income tax returns. I think the state should allow an exception for these interest charges for the tax year 2020.</p>
04/30/2020 04:43 PM	Mr. Ryke Longest	<p>Public health and worker employment protections have suffered mightily over the past decade of leadership by the NC General Assembly. From cutting unemployment benefits to enacting stagnant state public health budgets in the face of growing population, this body's public policy objectives failed to protect working families from emerging threats to employment and to public health. COVID-19 has shown the folly of short-changing safety-net programs.</p>
04/30/2020 04:45 PM	Eric Klee	<p>I'd like to know when university state employees are going to get their raises/salary increases from LAST YEAR -- JULY 1, 2019. This has been ongoing for 9 months now. It's</p>

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04/30/2020 05:25 PM	In Support of HB1043 Emily Rodriguez	<p>ridiculous. Using COVID-19 as an excuse now is unacceptable.</p> <p>I am writing from Boone, North Carolina to express my support for House Bill 1043. The section allowing for the sale of alcohol for offsite consumption will be a lifeline for local small businesses struggling under the burden of maintaining social distancing procedures.</p>
04/30/2020 10:03 PM	Reverend Mark Creech	<p>Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,</p> <p>Section 5.4.7 (a&amp;b) of HB 1043 would authorize the Chairman of the ABC Commission to allow for curbside sales of mixed beverages for off-premise consumption, including delivery. The mixed drinks served would require a secure lid or cap, could only be sold with food, and limited to two servings per meal or food item ordered. This section of the legislation would expire on the date Executive Order 116 by Governor Cooper is rescinded. The Christian Action League opposes this provision and urges you to do the same by not including it in whatever becomes the final bill.</p> <p>Although this provision may be well-intended and meant for helping the ailing restaurant and lodging industry during the current crisis, it hurts another segment of our state's citizens. Drinking is sky-high at this time. U.S. sales of alcohol are up by more than 55%. Online sales are up by 243%. The purchase of spirits in Mecklenburg County is up by 30%. Overall, liquor sales in the Tar Heel state have jumped by 21%.</p> <p>These dynamics pose unique challenges for people suffering from alcoholism or an alcohol use disorder (AUD). People who drink too much weaken their immune system and become more susceptible to respiratory ailments like phenomena and possibly the coronavirus.</p> <p>One survey by Fishbowl, a group that focuses on workplace trends, reports that North Carolina currently ranks the highest of any state for people drinking while working from home (47.7%) This certainly doesn't bode well for North Carolina's productivity at a time when our citizens need to be their sharpest, and productivity doesn't need to be diminished any more than it already has been.</p> <p>This legislation is like an omelet with a rotten egg in it. The provision for curbside cocktails creates scenarios that make impaired driving and underage drinking more likely. Furthermore, it works against the state's overarching goal of keeping Emergency Rooms and Hospitals freed up.</p> <p>Allowing the sale of curbside mixed beverages is not likely to change the economic fortune of a restaurant or its employees. But because it creates a significant public health risk, it will seriously and negatively impact the trajectory of many of our citizen's lives, and unnecessarily add to our number of dead during the pandemic.</p> <p>Again, the Christian Action League urges you to oppose curbside sales of cocktails or liquor drinks in any bill, especially a COVID relief bill.</p> <p>Rev. Mark Creech is executive director of the Raleigh-based Christian Action League. The Christian Action League is a state-wide public policy group representing hundreds of</p>

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05/01/2020 08:05 AM	J B	<p>conservative evangelical churches in North Carolina.</p> <p>The State of NC is losing its financial advantage by paying out so much unemployment. We need to open the state now and stop the tyrannical and fascist order of the Governor. Yesterday he said we weren't going to open because people wouldn't feel safe going out. Of course not if they have been listening to panic porn on CNN and the media! But if we wait until it's safe to go out, that will never happen. No one can be 100% safe in a world like the one we live in. Our deaths in NC are at 0.003% of the population. It is absurd to stay home with a risk like that. The people who are at risk should stay home, and let everyone else wear masks and operate their businesses. We are not NYC. We are not China. We are not packed like sardines in a can, body to body on a subway. Don't treat us like the failed state of NY. Don't treat us like the failed Democrat cities that have so many deaths and so much poverty due to Democrat policies.</p>
05/01/2020 08:11 AM	P W	<p>There would be no need for a bill like this if Gov Cooper hadn't closed everything down. He has destroyed businesses and now he has destroyed the economy. It is not fair or just to tell people to just stay home. They can't work or collect a paycheck. Then what? Trust the government? That's a joke. Consider the news reports that there are more than 700,000 unemployment claims. Most people can't get into the system. Less than 40% of the claims have been paid. People have filed for 7 weeks in a row and haven't gotten their unemployment checks. The government is not taking care of the people they told to stay home. Therefore they should let them go back to work and live their lives. Government has failed. Cooper has failed. He has overwhelmed the system, and people are in food lines. Cooper is getting a paycheck, and others should be able to also.</p>
05/01/2020 08:15 AM	Joe B	<p>Cooper is ruining the economy. He is smashing our NC savings. He is getting haircuts. For all we know, he is hiding at his beach house. He is not taking questions at his press conferences. That's wrong. If he can get a haircut safely, then everyone else should be able to get a haircut. This EO has to be cancelled. He is ruining our good NC economy. Let the people go to work. But no, Gov Cooper wants us all to depend upon the government and be poor. The government has done a terrible job of getting the unemployment checks to the people.</p>
05/01/2020 08:19 AM		<p>If I have not received an unemployment check due to government incompetence, shouldn't I be allowed to work at my ESSENTIAL JOB that feeds my family? Did you see people lined up for food banks?</p> <p>We wouldn't have to have a bill like this to spend millions or billions for rescue and unemployment if you allowed most to go back to their ordinary lives, not their government controlled lives. The government is not a help in this crisis. Throwing money at a problem does not resolve the underlying problem.</p>
05/01/2020 08:23 AM		<p>This is not a racial issue, so don't let the Dems make it one. Mostly affected are the elderly, the very sick, the obese, and the men.</p> <p>Let everyone else have their lives back. Protect the vulnerable. Give everyone else freedom to go and do. Yes, wear masks and wash hands. Let's get going before Cooper bankrupts the state. Or is that the point of this? To ruin the solid NC economy???</p>
05/01/2020 08:31 AM	Mr Lawrence Cormier	<p>I am concerned that May 8 is too early to start opening. I have been downloading the NCDHHS Dashboard info, and publishing a lot daily only timeline. I do not see a downward trend yet. Are you changing the criteria from when the governor announced the criteria</p>

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05/01/2020 08:34 AM		<p>when he first extended it to May 8th?</p> <p>Keep us safe, don't listen to the well financed few protesting.</p> <p>Franklin County has close to 20 deaths in the county, and almost all, if not all, of these are in senior nursing homes. Why not tackle safety issues where people are dying instead of locking down the general population? Instead of ruining NC with broad lockdowns, why not deal with the real issue of senior living centers, rehab centers and Veterans facilities. Why are we destroying the NC budget and being forced into fix-it legislation when we are not even focusing on the real issue? And last I checked, the NC DHHS was supposed to inspect those places and keep them safe. Aha, government not doing its job again. But, yes, there are interfering in the lives of the ordinary citizens and hurting them. The citizens will be paying higher taxes for this government fiasco for a very long time.</p>
05/01/2020 08:41 AM	Bob T	<p>Gov Cooper is just positioning himself for a job in the future presidential administration. He is always in NY fundraising. He is listening to the failed politicians of NYC and other Dem tyrannical governors and marching lockstep with them. Why don't we just admit that Cooper is ruining the NC economy and therefore forcing emergency bills to be put forth. The citizens will be paying for this for a very long time. He is making us debtors.</p>
05/01/2020 10:54 AM	Dr Jane Bramham	<p>Please keep the UNC funding for the North Carolina Arboretum in the bill. This jewel of the UNC system, a state treasure, has been a source of peace and respite personally and for thousands as well as a fabulous educational tool in more normal times with the potential to augment the schooling from home in this era. Their ability to maintain the property will allow it to open as soon as it is safe to do so, and is an easy place to be outdoors with proper social distancing.</p>
05/01/2020 12:03 PM	Jean Cornwell	<p>DOT. tax-and-tag together.</p> <p>I would like to pay the vehicle taxes but am unable to do an inspection at this time. Since loss of revenue from vehicle taxes is needed, could this be reprogrammed to allow this? If not, and I instead choose to turn in my vehicle tag, would that allow me to still pay taxes due?</p>
05/01/2020 12:33 PM	Chad Proxmire	<p>It would be prudent to add a provision to justify dumping money into agencies that have no budget shortfalls relatable to COVID shutdown.</p> <p>Example: \$300 Million to the state DOT seems a bit odd since the budget for them has already been approved. How has the DOT budget been affected by the shutdown? If projects were delayed and resources went unused during any shutdown then the budget would not have been exhausted. This emergency was not a natural disaster like a hurricane that would have damaged important infrastructure.</p> <p>All agencies should submit applications for money and be given per their actual budgetary needs which has remained unknown thus far.</p>
05/01/2020 03:49 PM	Ms. Stacey Hypes	<p>The \$350 million for local governments should provide for both county and municipal government. You can not guarantee counties will create programs to benefit their towns. Citizens rely on services from both. Providing a variety of amenities and services attracts home buyers, business, and boosts the local economy. Towns expect at least a 10% short fall on revenue for sales taxes due to COVID 19. They'll need assistance in continuing to provide services, pay staff, and launch projects on a diminished budget.</p>
05/01/2020 05:59 PM	Director Terry Lansdell	<p>Please make a technical correction as part of your charge to provide transportation oversight and funding. Please restore language G.S. 136-189.11(d)(3)c. reads as rewritten:</p>

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		<p>"c. Bicycle and pedestrian xxxx. – The Department xxxxx is authorized to provide financial support for independent bicycle and pedestrian improvement xxxx for projects as a proportional match to federal funds administered by the Department for that purpose.</p> <p>Without this change, North Carolina will not be able to access the full allotment of needed federal funding.</p>
05/01/2020 06:35 PM	Marie Sugar	<p>Please restore language that funded active transportation projects in G.S. 136-189.11(d) (3)c. We hope that you will support the corrected language to read:</p> <p>"Bicycle and pedestrian – The Department is authorized to provide financial support for independent bicycle and pedestrian improvement for projects as a proportional match to federal funds administered by the Department for that purpose. These funds may be used by the NCDOT for any eligible project occurring after December 2015."</p>
05/01/2020 06:55 PM	Dylan Ellerbee	<p>I am writing in opposition of Section 5.4.7 of HB 1043. While restaurants that serve drinks are an important part of North Carolina's economy, serving mixed drinks during COVID-19 is not. The Federal government has already taken steps to protect small businesses and their employees through the CARES Act, the PPP and EIDL loan programs as well as expansions on unemployment benefits. Moreover, many small businesses have already deployed their bartenders as food delivery drivers. So, while I am sympathetic to ensuring that both small businesses and employees of small businesses are paid, allowing the sale of mixed beverages will not change the economic fortunes of these businesses and their employees. However, doing so does pose a significant increased public health risk to the general population of North Carolina.</p> <p>According to various media reports, people are coping with the current crisis by turning to alcohol. Recent reports show that U.S. sales of alcohol have risen by 55%. Online sales across the country are up by 243%. The Charlotte Observer has reported that in Mecklenburg County the sale of spirits in ABC stores has had a 30% jump in sales. Overall, North Carolina liquor sales have jumped by 21%. Governor Cooper's executive order has already made ABC stores an "essential business" and people may already find their choice of alcoholic beverages, whether, beer, wine, or liquor readily available. By creating additional outlets with curbside sales of mixed beverages, dangerous drinking levels during a period when so many people in our state suffer from alcoholism or an Alcohol Use Disorder, creates an additional unnecessary public health hazard to the current pandemic. In short, section 5.4.7 of this bill does not make economic, nor public health sense.</p> <p>We urge you to oppose section 5.4.7 of this bill and any sections of any other bills that allow curbside or delivery sales of mixed beverages.</p>
05/01/2020 07:03 PM	Karen Webb	<p>Making mixed drinks available as take out is a BAD idea now or in the future. Alcohol consumption is very high at this point in our state and nation especially due to COVID19. Let's use prudent decision making to protect our citizens. Staying healthy and safe , as we hear daily, does not include promoting these types of sales.</p>
05/01/2020 07:53 PM	Michael Paulson	<p>Honorable Committee Members:</p> <p>I am opposed to the section of the COVID appropriation bill that which would allow</p>

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		<p>curbside sales of mixed beverages.</p> <p>While restaurants that serve drinks are an important part of North Carolina's economy, serving mixed drinks during COVID-19 is not. The Federal government has already taken steps to protect small businesses and their employees through the CARES Act, the PPP and EIDL loan programs as well as expansions on unemployment benefits. Moreover, many small businesses have already deployed their bartenders as food delivery drivers. So, while I am sympathetic to insuring that both small businesses and employees of small businesses are paid, allowing the sale of mixed beverages will not change the economic fortunes of these businesses and their employees. However, doing so does pose a significant increased public health risk to the general population of North Carolina.</p> <p>According to various media reports, people are coping with the current crisis by turning to alcohol. Recent reports show that U.S. sales of alcohol have risen by 55%. Online sales across the country are up by 243%. The Charlotte Observer has reported that in Mecklenburg County the sale of spirits in ABC stores has had a 30% jump in sales. Overall, North Carolina liquor sales have jumped by 21%.</p> <p>Governor Cooper's executive order has already made ABC stores an "essential business" and people may already find their choice of alcoholic beverages, whether, beer, wine, or liquor readily available. By creating additional outlets with curbside sales of mixed beverages, dangerous drinking levels during a period when so many people in our state suffer from alcohol related disorders and consequences, creates an additional unnecessary public health hazard in the current pandemic. In short, section 4.7 of this bill does not make economic, nor public health sense.</p> <p>I urge you to oppose the section of this bill and any sections of any other bills that allow curbside or delivery sales of mixed beverages.</p> <p>Respectfully,</p> <p>Michael Paulson</p>
05/01/2020 07:53 PM	Michael Paulson	<p>Honorable Committee Members:</p> <p>I am opposed to the section of the COVID appropriation bill that which would allow curbside sales of mixed beverages.</p> <p>While restaurants that serve drinks are an important part of North Carolina's economy, serving mixed drinks during COVID-19 is not. The Federal government has already taken steps to protect small businesses and their employees through the CARES Act, the PPP and EIDL loan programs as well as expansions on unemployment benefits. Moreover, many small businesses have already deployed their bartenders as food delivery drivers. So, while I am sympathetic to insuring that both small businesses and employees of small businesses are paid, allowing the sale of mixed beverages will not change the economic fortunes of these businesses and their employees. However, doing so does pose a significant increased public health risk to the general population of North Carolina.</p>



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		<p>According to various media reports, people are coping with the current crisis by turning to alcohol. Recent reports show that U.S. sales of alcohol have risen by 55%. Online sales across the country are up by 243%. The Charlotte Observer has reported that in Mecklenburg County the sale of spirits in ABC stores has had a 30% jump in sales. Overall, North Carolina liquor sales have jumped by 21%.</p> <p>Governor Cooper's executive order has already made ABC stores an "essential business" and people may already find their choice of alcoholic beverages, whether, beer, wine, or liquor readily available. By creating additional outlets with curbside sales of mixed beverages, dangerous drinking levels during a period when so many people in our state suffer from alcohol related disorders and consequences, creates an additional unnecessary public health hazard in the current pandemic. In short, section 4.7 of this bill does not make economic, nor public health sense.</p> <p>I urge you to oppose the section of this bill and any sections of any other bills that allow curbside or delivery sales of mixed beverages.</p> <p>Respectfully,</p> <p>Michael Paulson</p>
05/01/2020 08:02 PM	Mina Cook	<p>First, THANK YOU for your time, dedication and for working so quickly towards a bi-partisan agreement to help North Carolinians!</p> <p>Second, I am writing to ask you to say NO to Section 5.4.7 of HB 1043 regarding the curbside sales and delivery of mixed alcoholic beverages. My understanding is that the Senate version (SB 704) of this relief bill does NOT include expanded alcohol sales, which is the obvious choice when it comes to the public health and wellness of North Carolina. It is NOT in the best interest of our communities to further expand alcohol access. While I am in total support of helping North Carolinians through these historically challenging times, especially our small business owners which include restaurants and bars, this is NOT the way to accomplish that mission.</p> <p>According to numerous media reports, people are coping with the current crisis by turning to alcohol. Recent reports show that U.S. sales of alcohol have risen by 55%. Online sales across the country are up by 243%. The Charlotte Observer has reported that in Mecklenburg County the sale of spirits in ABC stores has had a 30% jump in sales. Overall, North Carolina liquor sales have jumped by 21%.</p> <p>Governor Cooper's executive order has made ABC stores an "essential business" and people may already find their choice of alcoholic beverages, whether, beer, wine, or liquor readily available. By creating additional outlets with curbside/delivery sales of mixed beverages it will likely increase already concerning drinking levels during a period when so many people in our state struggle with alcohol related disorders and consequences. More access to alcohol creates an additional unnecessary public health hazard in the current pandemic.</p>

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		<p>The World Health Organization (WHO) recently released information to the public regarding alcohol use during this pandemic. The evidence is clear. <a href="http://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0010/437608/Alcohol-and-COVID-19-what-you-need-to-know.pdf?ua=1">http://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0010/437608/Alcohol-and-COVID-19-what-you-need-to-know.pdf?ua=1</a></p> <p>Thank you for your time. And thank you in advance for considering my concerns during your discussions about HB 1043.</p>
05/01/2020 08:20 PM	President of BIKEWALK NC Ted Silver	<p>Given the increased activity of bicycling and walking it is necessary to consider better funding to allow this to continue</p> <p>Please restore language that funded active transportation projects in G.S. 136-189.11(d) (3)c. We hope that you will support the corrected language to read:</p> <p>"Bicycle and pedestrian – The Department is authorized to provide financial support for independent bicycle and pedestrian improvement for projects as a proportional match to federal funds administered by the Department for that purpose. These funds may be used by the NCDOT for any eligible project occurring after December 2015."</p>
05/01/2020 11:41 PM	Ann Russell	<p>I am greatly concern about section 4.7 of HB 1043.</p> <p>I am a resident of Alamance County.</p> <p>I have had the opportunity to talk with several restaurants that have license to sell. They are NOT expressing a need to sell mix drinks. The monitoring of consumption would truly be a liability.</p> <p>I understand that ABC stores sells have increased. I believe Adults can mixed drinks and drink in the safety of their homes. Please do not include this in this much needed bill.</p>
05/02/2020 07:02 AM	Kristin Milam	<p>I'm writing to ask that you vote in favor of providing equitable distribution of any federal of state funds that go to local governments. Currently the NC House and Senate proposals, as written, do not treat cities and towns equitably.</p> <p>Neither proposal guarantees that cities and towns will receive any money; the House proposal leaves the decision completely up to county government.</p> <p>The Senate bill needs adjusting to allow one important change: that the \$150 million being distributed immediately is equally split between counties and cities</p> <p>Local government is a large employer in our state, primarily employing front-line first responders who are helping keep North Carolinians safe, as well as workers providing essential services that are allowing residents to continue working and subsisting through this crisis.</p> <p>Further, about 56% of N.C.'s population lives in cities; roughly 80% of jobs, and 75% of retail sales, all take place in municipalities. However, cities only receive about 35% of sales tax revenues.</p> <p>Please help protect our cities who are truly the drivers of our state's economy and serve as our cultural hubs.</p>
05/02/2020 08:17 AM	Diane Riibe	<p>Honorable Senators:</p> <p>It is with 30 years' experience working in alcohol policy that I write you, urging you to not support a measure within HB 1043 that includes curbside service of mixed alcohol</p>

Date Submitted	Name	Comments
		<p>beverages (I've worked on local, state and federal policy, trained professionals across the country, and previously led a statewide nonprofit addressing these issues for nearly two decades).</p> <p>I have great consideration for our friends in the restaurant business, but a higher need during our COVID-19 response is avoiding increased demand for health and hospital services due to what we know is a growing rate of alcohol consumption across the state and country. Caring for our citizens includes not looking to measures that will bring additional stressors into families while adding an undue burden on an already highly stressed behavioral health system.</p> <p>The idea to allow for curbside service of mixed alcohol beverages would not only make North Carolina one of a very small group of states looking to this kind of practice, but it would also be a terribly unfortunate policy decision for our citizens and our health care system. I'm asking you to not add to the misery that so many families are currently experiencing. I sincerely thank you for giving consideration to my comments.</p>
05/02/2020 08:33 AM	Edward Virant	<p>Dear Senators:</p> <p>I ask you to not give favorable consideration to a measure that would allow curbside sales of mixed alcohol beverages. Much of my professional life has been as a secondary principal, and I have served on many local, state, and national boards and associations working for effective alcohol policy and treatment practices. In addition, as a former alcohol treatment administrator, I have seen the devastation that increased alcohol availability has inflicted on families. Through these experiences I have learned that one of the most effective deterrents to alcohol-related problems is limiting access to alcohol. This curbside sales idea seems a stretch for considering needs of a business over the harm it would produce, especially during this time of the coronavirus. Our families need us to give highest consideration to their health and well-being, and this would be one easy decision in that priority.</p>
05/02/2020 09:36 AM	Attorney PAT OGLESBY	<p>Selling drinks for curbside pick up: basing the number of Drinks one can buy on the number of food items one has bought is a weak standard. With it, I can order two small tacos and two jumbo margaritas. The standard should be based on price, so that the price of the food should exceed the price of the drinks.</p>